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COLLECTIVE SOUL

Local artists display range of art at PV Gallery show

By DICK BENNETT
ART WRITER

"I believe it is everybody's obligation to express themselves," says Vern Bowie. "It can be in art or in jazz, or in some other way. But as you go through life, you have to indicate that you were here."

Bowie, who is usually knee-deep in sawdust, expresses himself through carving. "I have an insane passion for wood," he admits. He taught himself to carve at the age of 10, long before he was old enough to take his first class in woodshop. His carving now takes the form of fine, one-of-a-kind pieces of furniture and sculpture.

Bowie is one of ten local artists whose work will be shown at the Pajaro Valley Gallery at 37 Sudden Street through August 24. "Collective '96" highlights a very diverse group, representing the variety and richness of the Pajaro Valley area.

'We have been able to put together not only a diverse group of artists, but a strong feeling for the Pajaro Valley area.'

On the cover: 'Chrome Energy Sunflowers' by Watsonville artist Peggy Sue Welch. Above, Guillermo Aranda at work.

Judy Stabile stands with two of her sculpted creations.

Linda Webb is known locally as a teacher, giving private lessons to children in her studio in Watsonville. Her paintings, in line and color on illustration board, usually depict local sites and people, reflecting the character of the community.

Pat Bisconti is a painter and sculptor who works in steel and stone. He is originally from Youngstown, Ohio, one of the nation's steel centers, and has been in the Pajaro Valley area for 30 years. His work has an impressive range — from figurative pieces, such as the marble portrait of Judge Watson installed at the City Hall, to music themes fabricated in metal.

'Guitar VII' is a welded sheet-steel piece by Pat Bisconti.

Peggy Sue Welch is an artist, poet and mother of three. Her work, in the relatively new and challenging medium of oil pastel, is inspired by natural form and color. "It's like working in a rich kind of crayola," she says. She works out of doors, where "trees, flowers and fruit generate a kind of electric energy."

Judy Stabile works in marble and alabaster. "I like to see the transformation of these hard materials into something smooth and touchable," she says. The resulting figures have the sensitivity and strength of classic sculpture. Stabile also works in printmaking and will show her oil based monoprints.

Guillermo "Yermo" Aranda is one of Watsonville's best known artists, whose murals are seen daily in many parts of the community. He works in many media, as a muralist, sculptor, printmaker, ceramist, silversmith, painter and dancer of the pre-Columbian traditionals of ancient Mexico.

Sandra M. Whiting creates small and

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